



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota**

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY TIMOTHY Q. PURDON VISITS YWCA CASS CLAY'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UNIT

FARGO - Today United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon visited YWCA Cass Clay's Transitional Housing Unit as part of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) commemoration of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and in conjunction with the YWCA's fifteenth annual Week Without Violence.™

YWCA Cass Clay is the recent recipient of a DOJ Transitional Housing Grant. On September 20, 2010, the program was awarded \$249,985 under a grant from DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women. Grants made under this program provide assistance for transitional and short-term housing, and related support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Transitional housing programs like the YWCA's offer services that include counseling, support groups, safety planning, and advocacy services, as well as practical services such as licensed child care, employment services, transportation vouchers, telephones, and referrals to other agencies.

U. S. Attorney Purdon's visit included tours of the YWCA's Emergency Shelter for women and children as well as the YWCA's Transitional Housing Unit that was the recipient of the DOJ grant funds. During his tour he met with a DOJ Transitional Housing program participant and with YWCA case managers where he gained firsthand knowledge of the

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program's challenges and opportunities for positive outcomes.

U. S. Attorney Purdon said, "I chose to visit to the YWCA's Transitional Housing Unit to observe October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to recognize the YWCA's fifteenth annual Week Without Violence™ because of the emphasis the Department of Justice has placed on the issue of Domestic Violence. Violence against women is the seed to so many other forms of violence and because it continues to have a devastating effect on families and on entire communities, eradicating it remains a top priority of the Department of Justice. It is critical to this effort that successful transitional housing programs like the YWCA's continue to provide a wide range of flexible services that address the individual needs of victims in order to empower those victims to choose the course of action that is best for them."

YWCA Cass Clay Executive Director Erin Prochnow said, "The YWCA is honored to host U.S. Attorney Purdon and appreciates his interest in learning more about local programs serving survivors of domestic violence. For over 100 years, the YWCA has been providing programs and services to women and children in our community. With the help of the Justice Department Transitional Housing Grant Program, we are able to provide safety and security to women and children who are escaping violent situations." Prochnow explained, "This program helps the YWCA go beyond emergency shelter and provide a pathway to independence by offering wrap-around services, including affordable housing, childcare, education, and employment opportunities, transportation, and much more.

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The YWCA Week Without Violence,[™] held October 17-23, is a nationwide annual campaign that highlights practical, sustainable alternatives to violence in our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. A grassroots initiative when it began in 1995, today the YWCA Week Without Violence[™] is a global campaign involving hundreds of communities in the United States and in countries around the world.

YWCA Cass Clay

The YWCA Cass Clay is a nonprofit organization serving women and children facing homelessness in the community. Programs include emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, shelter children's services, education and employment programming, racial justice work, and a nationally accredited public childcare center, A Child's World. It is through these programs the YWCA Cass Clay carries out its mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

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